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## DIGEST

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Hutter

HB No. 568

**Abstract:** Provides for a comprehensive system of articulation and transfer of credits between and among public secondary and postsecondary educational institutions; provides for the creation of a statewide articulation and transfer council and its membership, powers, and duties; provides for a statewide articulation agreement and a common core curriculum; and provides for implementation time lines, reporting requirements, and rules.

Proposed law provides for a comprehensive system of articulation and transfer of credits between and among public secondary and postsecondary educational institutions.

Requires the postsecondary education management boards, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), and city, parish, and other local public school boards jointly to develop and implement articulation and transfer programs and agreements that facilitate and maximize the seamless transfer of credits between and among public secondary and postsecondary educational institutions and that make the most efficient use of faculty, equipment, and facilities.

Creates the Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council, appointed by the commissioner of higher education in consultation with BESE and the postsecondary education management boards, which shall have the following powers, duties, and responsibilities:

- (1) Coordinate, oversee, and monitor the articulation and transfer of credits.
- (2) Develop guidelines for interinstitutional agreements between and among public education institutions.
- (3) Oversee the development of a statewide core curriculum that shall be comprised of specified general education courses and common degree program prerequisites.
- (4) Establish committees or advisory groups composed of secondary and postsecondary faculty members to determine course comparability and to facilitate articulation in subject areas.
- (5) Approve common degree program prerequisites across program areas and course and credit-by-exam equivalencies and establish passing scores and course and credit equivalencies for exams administered pursuant to accelerated programs.

- (6) Establish monitoring, compliance, and reporting systems to facilitate and ensure statewide and institutional compliance with statewide articulation policies. Specifies data to be collected.
- (7) Establish an appeals process to resolve disagreements between transferring students and receiving educational institutions regarding the transfer and acceptance of credits earned at another institution.
- (8) Review, at least annually, articulation and transfer policies and make recommendations to the commissioner of higher education who shall then make recommendations to the legislature for needed revisions.

Requires the Bd. of Regents and BESE to enter into a statewide articulation agreement to govern the articulation and transfer of credits between and among public secondary and postsecondary educational institutions that shall, at a minimum:

- (1) Guarantee the transfer of general education courses and common degree program prerequisites.
- (2) Guarantee that every associate of arts and associate of science degree graduate of a community college shall be deemed to have met all general education and other core curriculum requirements and must be granted admission to the upper division of any state public four-year college or university, with certain exceptions.
- (3) Provide that associate of arts and associate of science degree graduates who transfer to a four-year college or university shall not be required to take any additional general education courses to fulfill baccalaureate degree requirements.
- (4) Guarantee the statewide articulation of appropriate career and technical education programs and workforce development programs and transfer of course credits between secondary schools and technical and community colleges.
- (5) Provide for acceptance by postsecondary educational institutions of credits earned in accelerated programs.
- (6) Guarantee the transfer of equivalent courses.

Requires the Bd. of Regents to:

- (1) Identify all degree programs offered by all public secondary and postsecondary education institutions.
- (2) Identify those courses that meet general education requirements within each major area of study. Provides that all public postsecondary educational institutions shall accept such general education courses.

- (3) Identify all courses offered by colleges and universities and accepted for credit toward a degree and identify them as either general education or required as a prerequisite for a degree.
- (4) Identify common degree program prerequisite courses and course substitutions for degree programs across all postsecondary education institutions. Provides that common degree program prerequisites shall be offered and accepted by all postsecondary institutions, with certain exceptions.
- (5) Develop a centralized database containing the list of courses and course substitutions that meet the prerequisite requirements for each postsecondary certificate, industry-based certification, and associate and baccalaureate degree program.

Requires the postsecondary education management boards to identify their core curricula. Further requires public technical colleges, community colleges, and four-year colleges and universities to work with BESE and public schools and school districts to assure that high school curricula coordinate with the core curricula and to prepare students for college-level work.

Provides that the core curricula for associate in arts and associate in science degree programs shall be approved and adopted by the Bd. of Regents.

Requires the Bd. of Regents to determine and establish a standard number of credits required to complete each baccalaureate degree program and establish a standard number of credits required to earn associate degree programs for transfer to a four-year college or university.

Provides that baccalaureate degree programs shall not require more than the number of credits established by the board for degree completion without approval from the board.

Provides that associate in arts and an associate in science degrees shall require no more than 60 semester hours of college credit, including 36 hours of general education course work.

Requires the commissioner of higher education to appoint faculty committees representing community and technical colleges and public high school faculties to recommend criteria, including a standard program length, for each postsecondary career certificate program, diploma, and degree offered by a technical college or a community college.

Requires the Bd. of Regents to develop and maintain a comprehensive web-based system to provide information to students, advisers, and faculty regarding statewide articulation.

Provides for implementation time lines as follows:

- (1) The Bd. of Regents shall appoint the members of the Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council not later than Aug. 1, 2009.
- (2) The Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council shall hold an organizational meeting not

later than Sept. 1, 2009.

- (3) The statewide articulation agreement shall be developed and adopted not later than March 1, 2010.
- (4) Full articulation and transfer of the associate of arts and associate of science degrees shall be implemented for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Requires the Bd. of Regents to ensure that sufficient funding is made available to implement the provisions of proposed law and authorizes the board to utilize state appropriations, federal funds, funds made available through other sources, or funds realized through realignment of other programs administered by the board.

Requires the Bd. of Regents, beginning in 2010, to submit a written report to the Senate and House education committees not later than Jan. 31 and July 31 of each year on the status of statewide articulation and transfer of credits across all educational institutions as required by proposed law.

Requires the Bd. of Regents to adopt rules and regulations to implement proposed law.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:3129.9-3129.15)

## Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill.

1. Deletes proposed law that provides certain guarantees to students with associate degrees who seek to enroll in public postsecondary education institutions that offer baccalaureate degrees and instead adds proposed law as follows:
  - (a) Provides for the creation of a statewide articulation and transfer council and provides for its membership, powers, and duties.
  - (b) Provides for a statewide articulation agreement and transfer of credits among and between public secondary and postsecondary education institutions.
  - (c) Provides for a common core curriculum for public postsecondary education institutions.
  - (d) Provides for implementation time lines, funding, reporting, and rules.